

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 00961 080139Z

66

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DLOS-06 CG-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 IO-14 COA-02 FEA-02 SCI-06

COME-00 INT-08 ACDA-19 DRC-01 /151 W

----- 097625

R 072358Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2413

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 961

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, ENRG, KS, JA, CH

SUBJECT: LOS: KOREAN RESPONSE TO PRC REACTION TO KOREA-JAPAN
CONTINENTAL SHELF AGREEMENTS

REF: (A) SEOUL 923; (B) PEKING 215; (C) TOKYO 1616 (D) HONG KONG
1303

1. KOREAN FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICER MADE FOLLOWING COMMENTS WHEN
GIVING EMBOFF COPY OF MOFA'S FORMAL STATEMENT REITERATING ROKG'S
WILLINGNESS TO DISCUSS CONTINENTAL SHELF ISSUE WITH PRC.

A. REFERENCE TO SHELF AS NATURAL EXTENSION OF CONTINENT WAS
FIRST ESPOUSAL BY PRC OF "NATURAL PROLONGATION" PRINCIPLE. ROKG
VIEWS SITUATION AS ONE INVOLVING OPPOSITE RATHER THAN ADJACENT
STATES, AND THEREFORE ONE IN WHICH MEDIAN LINE SHOULD GOVERN, AS
NOTED (HE PRESUMABLY WAS REFERRING TO PARAGRAPHS 57 AND 85) IN ICJ
NORTH SEA CASE DECISION WHICH ESTABLISHED NATURAL PROLONGATION
PRINCIPLE. BOUNDSRY LINE WAS BASED ON POINT EQUIDISTANT FROM
BARREN ISLAND, MARADO (CHEJU) AND DANJO GUNTO, AND THEREFORE
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CONSTITUTES A VERY REASONABLE LINE.

B) MOFA WAS INFORMED BY JAPAN EMBASSY SEOUL OFFICER THAT GAIMUSHO HAD GIVEN TEXT TO PRC EMBASSY TOKYO OFFICER ON JANUARY 28; THEREFORE, PRC HAD ADEQUATE TIME FOR THOROUGH REVIEW OF DOCUMENTS (AND BOUNDARY LOCATION) BEFORE ISSUING STATEMENT.

C) ROKG'S PRIME INTEREST AT THIS POINT IS LESS IN THE SUBSTANCE OF THE CONTINENTAL SHELF THAN TO USE ISSUE AS MEANS OF ESTABLISHING RELATIONSHIP WITH, AND SOME SORT OF RECOGNITION FROM, PRC. NEXT ROKG STEP IS NOT KNOWN AT WORKING LEVEL; LATTER SUGGESTED THAT USG BE ASKED TO USE EMBASSY AND USLO AS INTERMEDIARIES TO CONVEY ROKG WISH TO TALK TO PRC AUTHORITIES. FOREIGN MINISTER, HOWEVER, REJECTED THIS PROPOSAL, SAYING HE HAD SOMETHING ELSE (UNDISCLOSED) IN MIND.

HABIB

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Message Attributes

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